

Household Pulse Survey User Notes

Phase 3.7

Date: February 7, 2023

Release Note on the Public Use File (PUF) Data Dictionary

MEDICAID Universe

In the week 52 and 53 PUF data dictionaries, the universe for the variable **MEDICAID** was incorrectly labeled as “All persons born before 2005.” The correct universe is “HLTHINS4 = 2 (No - Medicaid, Medical Assistance, or any kind of government-assistance plan for those with low incomes or a disability).” The week 52 and 53 PUF data dictionaries will not be re-issued. The correct universe statement will be available in the week 54 data dictionary. This is an error with the labeling only and does not impact the data.

Natural Disaster Table 1

A sourcing error was found in a column of the Natural Disaster Table 1. This impacts the Natural Disaster Table 1 for weeks 52 and 53. The sourcing error was corrected and tables for those weeks have been reposted along with an updated copy of the Data User Sourcing Specification.

Date: January 25, 2023

Release Note on Updated Phase 3.7 Table Specifications

All Tables

Respondents to the Household Pulse Survey must be at least 18 years old. Therefore, beginning with Week 53, TBIRTH_YEAR values in the table sourcing specification were adjusted by one year to accommodate the calendar year change from 2022 to 2023.

Date: January 5, 2023

Release Note on Phase 3.7 Collection of the Household Pulse Survey

On December 9, 2022, the Household Pulse Survey (HPS) entered Phase 3.7 and began collecting data with the updated questionnaire. There have been multiple changes to the survey, including the addition of new questions, the adjustment of existing questions, and the removal of certain survey items from earlier collection periods (see Release Note on New Content and Updated Questionnaire below).

Phase 3.7 is currently scheduled to collect data into February 2023. It will continue the two-weeks on, two-weeks off collection and dissemination approach that began with Phase 3.3 of the survey. This latest phase is scheduled to have three distinct collection cycles and data releases.

Week 52: December 9 – December 19, 2022 (data released on January 5, 2023)

Week 53: January 4 – January 16, 2023 (data released January 25, 2023)

Week 54: February 1 – February 13, 2023 (data released February 25, 2023)

Users can access the Phase 3.7 questionnaire on the [Measuring Household Experiences during the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#) website, and all previous questionnaires from the survey are available on the [Technical Documentation](#) webpage.

Release Note on Content Changes to the Questionnaire

New Content for Phase 3.7

Beginning with Week 52 (collection period December 9 – December 19, 2022), the Household Pulse Survey questionnaire changed to include the following new items:

- **EMP4a:** Respondents who report their main reason for not working is because of childcare/eldercare obligations or being laid-off or furloughed (universe: EMP4 = 3, 4, 8, 9, or 10) receive a follow up question on whether that reason is because of COVID-19, a natural disaster, or some other reason.
- **FD6_NEW:** New content for all respondents asking if anyone in the household receives benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Food Stamp Program, or WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children).
- **FD7_NEW:** For respondents who report that children in the household pay for meals at school (universe: FD5 = 2, 3, 8), this new content asks respondent if paying for school meals adds a burden on other household expenses.
- **ND1:** This new question for all respondents asks whether they were displaced from their home in the past year due to a natural disaster (for example, hurricanes, floods, and fires).
- **ND2:** For respondents who have been displaced by a natural disaster in the past year (universe: ND1 = 1), this new content asks for the natural disaster type(s) with the following checkbox options:
 - ☐ **Hurricane**
 - ☐ **Flood**
 - ☐ **Fire**
 - ☐ **Tornado**
 - ☐ **Other, specify**

- **ND3:** Asks those respondents who have been displaced by a natural disaster in the past year (universe: ND1 = 1) how long they have been displaced from their homes.
- **ND4:** For respondents who have been displaced by a natural disaster in the past year (universe: ND1 = 1), ND4 asks how much damage the natural disaster caused to their property and possessions.
- **ND5a-ND5g:** For respondents who have been displaced by a natural disaster in the past year (universe: ND1 = 1), this battery of questions asks about the type of experiences the respondent had regarding food and drinking water shortages, loss of electricity, unsanitary conditions, feelings of isolation, fear of crime, or scam offers.
- **MEDICAID_1:** Asks all respondents if they have ever had Medicaid coverage since January 1, 2022.
- **MEDICAID_2:** If respondents indicate that they had Medicaid coverage since January 1, 2022, but have since lost it (universe: MEDICAID_1=1), this content questions why the respondent lost coverage.

Updated Content for Phase 3.7

Additionally, adjusted questionnaire items include:

- **VAC2:** The content has been updated from asking whether the respondent received the COVID-19 vaccine to asking when the respondent's most recently received the vaccine dose or booster.
- **VAC5:** All VAC5 content concerning whether children have received the COVID-19 vaccine or booster has been modified to ask how long it has been since children in the household have received the COVID-19 vaccine or booster. This includes a "Not vaccinated" response option as well. Like VAC5 content in previous phases, this question is asked for each reported child age group (0-4, 5-11, 12-17).
- **VAC7:** The checkbox response options for the question "Which of the following, if any, are reasons that the parents or guardians of children living in your household may not or will not get a vaccine for all of the children? *Select all that apply*" have been revised.
- **EMP4:** The response options to the question "What is your main reason for not working for pay or profit?" have been revised.
- **INFLATE3:** The checkbox response options for the question "What changes, if any, have you made or do you plan to make to cope with the increase in prices? (*Select all that apply*)" have been revised.
- **FD5:** The question wording has been changed to remove the reference to "the past 7 days." Additionally, The checkbox response options for the question have been revised.

- **INF1:** The question wording has been updated from “Are there any babies or infants **under the age of 1 year** in your household?” to “Are there any babies or infants **under the age of 18 months** (one and a half years) old in your household?”
- **INF2:** The response options for the question “How many months old is the baby or infant in your household? If there are more than one, please report the age of the youngest” have been modified to include an option for babies between 12 and 18 months.
- **INF3:** The question wording has been modified from “Was your household affected by the Infant Formula shortage this year?” to “Was your household affected by the Infant Formula shortage that began in February of 2022?”.
- **INF4:** The checkbox response options for the question “Please state how you dealt with the infant formula shortage this year: *Select all that apply*” have been revised.
- **INF6:** A new response option for the question “In the last 7 days, did you have difficulty obtaining Infant Formula?” was added to include a category for those who did not attempt to obtain infant formula in the past 7 days.
- **INF7:** New response options to the question “Currently, how much Infant Formula do you have on hand?”.
- **INF8:** The checkbox response options for the question “What type of Infant Formula does the baby get? *Select all that apply*” have been revised.

Removed Content for Phase 3.7

Finally, a number of questions have been removed for this latest phase of the survey:

- VAC5_A – VAC5_C (children’s COVID-19 vaccine and booster items)
- TREAT1_A (receipt of antiviral/antibody treatments for COVID-19)
- TREAT2_A (why did respondent not receive antiviral/antibody treatments for COVID-19)
- INF5 (content asked if the infant in the household typically uses infant formula)

Release Note on Phase 3.7 Data Product Updates

Changes to the HPS Table Package

The tables in the Phase 3.7 table package have been modified to account for content changes, content removal, and new items. The package was expanded to include new natural disaster content in tables NaturalDisaster1 – NaturalDisaster5. Data users can explore the full table specification package under “Phase 3.7 Methodology” on the [Technical Documentation](#) webpage.

Changes to the HPS Interactive Data Tool

Based on changes to the questionnaire, the HPS Interactive Data Tool has added three new indicators and removed 1 previous measure.

New Indicators:

Food Assistance For Children- Percentage of adults in households where children currently receive food assistance. This indicator replaces the previous ***Food Assistance For Children (in the last 7 days)***

Displaced in Last Year by Natural Disaster- Percentage of adults in households who were displaced from their homes because of a natural disaster in the past year.

Duration of Displacement From Home in Last Year by Natural Disaster- Percentage of adults in households who were displaced from their homes for at least one month because of a natural disaster in the past year.

Indicators No Longer Updated:

Food Assistance For Children (in the last 7 days) - Percentage of adults in households where children received food assistance in the last 7 days.